

Newport Now

Volume II, Issue VII

A place to live, work, shop and play. It's all that and more!

November/December 2004

City Administration:

Mayor:	Tom Guidugli
Vice Mayor:	Jerry Peluso
Commissioners:	Jan Kneppshield
	Beth Fennell
	Robbie Hall
City Manager:	Phil Ciafardini
Police Chief :	Tom Fromme
Fire Chief:	Larry Atwell
Chief Financial Officer:	
	Greg Engelman
City Clerk:	Paula Williamson
City Solicitor:	Mike Schulken

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Newport's Success Draws State-Wide Attention

If someone told you ten years ago that Newport would be home to an Aquarium and an entertainment complex that would generate four to five million visitors a year, making Newport the #1 shopping/mall for families in the U.S. according to the Zagat Survey, what would you have said?

Well, while some may have laughed and scoffed at such a notion, City officials were working on a vision for Newport that would once again make Newport a recognized leader in the region. That vision continues to be physically transformed.

Newport was recently profiled in the September issue of Kentucky Monthly Magazine, which is based in Frankfort and distributed statewide and also to 46 other states. Newport is the magazine's "Cityscape" winner, a designation reserved for cities that successfully juggle economic and housing development while managing to protect the uniqueness of the municipalities. The winner is chosen by the NewCities Foundation, a charitable organization established in 2001 by the Kentucky League of Cities.

In an article headlined "Drive Your Chevy to this Levee, and you'll find a city revitalized," NewCities praises Newport for turning the

former Midwest capital of vice into a city other cities envy because of its success attracting Fortune 500 companies, upgrading its housing stock and wooing attractions such as Newport on the Levee and the Newport Aquarium.

"It underscores just how significant a change a City can undergo with visionary City leaders and a community-minded citizenry," Newport Mayor Tom Guidugli said. "Newport really is in the middle of a complete redevelopment."

The exciting developments such as the Newport Aquarium and Newport on the Levee have become an economic development engine that has spawned additional projects and development.

These developments represent millions of dollars in new revenues which will allow the City to reinvest in itself in a major way. The City is embarking on the most aggressive housing revitalization program since the post World War era. These housing programs will revitalize and stabilize our neighborhoods and provide for quality housing opportunities for all income levels.

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City/Schools Forge New Partnership

The City of Newport and Newport Independent Schools have forged another cooperative partnership - this time on a study of Newport Independent Schools.

The City will pay for the study (estimated at

\$40,000) and any related strategic planning and consulting in order to implement the results of the study. The City negotiated with H. J. Heinz for education funds for a study of

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City Programs Working For You

The City of Newport is dedicated to responding to the many requests it receives from concerned citizens, whether it comes from comments received at City Commission meetings, by telephone, by mail, by e-mail or by surveys. City officials and staff are willing to do whatever is necessary to address citizen concerns and issues. Below identifies some of the valuable programs that the City has implemented in response to your requests:

- ◆ **Clean Team:** This program was designed to reduce litter throughout the City. The team includes litter crews and the street sweeper. The monthly street cleaning detail is a part of this effort.
- ◆ **Tree Trimming:** The City provides tree-trimming service on a scheduled basis for trees located on the street. Previously, the cost of trimming was the responsibility of the property owner.
- ◆ **Street, Sidewalk and Curb Repairs:** The City has begun an extensive street, sidewalk and curb repair program through the City. Streets are on a long-term schedule for repairing and the City has the equipment for patching holes.
- ◆ **Large-Item Pick Up:** Residents are able to call the City garage to have workers come by to pick up large items that they are getting rid of. This helps to keep the sidewalks clear for pedestrians.
- ◆ **Animal Control:** The Code Enforcement Division of the Police Department handles the animal control function. This includes dog and cat pickups, setting traps in yards for wild animals, etc. The Police Department also utilizes officers to assist with these tasks when Code Enforcement officers are off duty.
- ◆ **Citizen Police Academy:** The Police Department's Citizen Police Academy was developed to give citizens a total overview of what the Police Department does to address their needs. This academy also is designed to develop relationships with the citizens of this City. This is an 11-week class that meets for three hours per week.
- ◆ **Bicycle Patrol:** The Police Department currently has six bicycle officers who work morning and afternoon shifts. This program was developed in 1993 and was the first in the Northern Kentucky area. Bike officers can get around the City better; there are more citizen/officer contacts and it is easier to ride up on someone who is violating the law, thus making the streets safer for citizens.
- ◆ **Vacation Checks:** The Police Department provides home checks for citizens while they are away on vacation. The citizen feels more at ease knowing that someone is looking out for their residence while they are away. These checks are completed twice on each shift for a total of six times daily. Citizens need to call 859-292-3629 or 292-3634 to have a vacation request completed.
- ◆ **Crime Prevention Programs:** The Police Department conducts several crime prevention programs throughout the year. These programs are geared at making the quality of life for our citizens better. Programs include bicycle safety, neighborhood watch, Internet safety, identity theft, fraud & scams, senior citizen safety, school resource officer program and many others.
- ◆ **Residential Parking:** The City has assigned certain areas in the City as residential parking only due to the increased traffic and tourism developed by Newport on the Levee. Parking will continue to be an issue the Police Department and City will continue to work on to address citizens' concerns.
- ◆ **Neighborhood Liaison Program:** The Newport Police Department sends an officer to neighborhood meetings and business association meetings to make access to the department easier. These officers are there to answer complaints, receive complaints, for support, to develop citizen/officer relationships and to give information on the department.
- ◆ **Citizen Communications**
 - o Newport Now debuted in May of 2001 so the City could have regular written communication delivered to your home.
 - o A new, more user-friendly website was created with 24/7 access video to City government. Board of Commissioners, as well as, other City employees can be contacted through e-mail and through the web page. (www.cityofnewportky.org)
 - o Updated information available on Cable Channel 16 on the latest issues and events.
 - o City Commission meetings are every other Monday at 7:00 p.m. These can be viewed live or taped on Channel 16 or 24/7 video access on City's website.

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10th Street Open for Business

The long awaited completion of the Railroad Bridge at 10th Street and Park Avenue is near. While the bridge will not be completely finished until December, the bridge is open to traffic - which is good news to downtown businesses. Also, the

City has plans to provide better signage to direct people to downtown businesses and to the Levee/Aquarium. The City will also closely monitor traffic to minimize increased traffic flow into the east side neighborhoods.

City Introduces New Marketing Image

The City has produced a new marketing image to be used in a marketing campaign for attracting new residents, small businesses, corporate headquarters and other organizations.

“NEWPORT, KENTUCKY, MAKE IT YOUR HOME TOO” was originally designed through a marketing committee of the Mayor’s Roundtable for Housing, but was expanded to be an overall marketing image. The image is being “fined tuned” and will be included in marketing materials for the City.



City Programs Working For You Continued

The success of our community can only be achieved through your continued support and input. The City of Newport leaders are very accessible. Please do not hesitate to contact them when you have a request, issue or idea of any kind.

Mayor Thomas L. Guidugli	292-3666	tguidugli@cityofnewportky.org
Vice Mayor Jerry Peluso	292-3666	jpeluso@cityofnewportky.org
Commissioner Jan Knepshield	292-3666	jknepshield@cityofnewportky.org
Commissioner Beth Fennell	292-3666	bfennell@fuse.net
Commissioner Robbie Hall	292-3666	rkh@isoc.net
Philip G. Ciafardini, City Manager	292-3666	pciafardini@cityofnewportky.org
Thomas J. Fromme, Chief of Police	292-2625	mmitts@newportkydpd.org
Larry B. Atwell, Fire Chief	292-3615	latwell@cityofnewportky.org
Greg Engelman, Chief Financial Officer	292-3660	gengelman@cityofnewportky.org

Newport's Success Draws State-Wide Attention Continued

The City has invested nearly 15 - 20 million dollars over the past several years on its Comprehensive Street Improvement Program, Monmouth Streetscape Improvements, Parks and Recreation Improvements and capital equipment. Also, with the new revenues, the City is able to increase City services while at the same time continue to lower property taxes.

In addition, these developments have provided over 2000 new jobs within walking distance for Newport residents.

Most importantly, the developments that have occurred over the past six years in Newport have changed the tired old image of Newport and have given all of us a renewed sense of community pride.

City/Schools Forge New Partnership Continued

public education in which it received \$100,000. In addition, the City pursued and received a \$50,000 scholarship endowment from H.J. Heinz to benefit Newport Independent Schools. The City was also successful in getting a \$50,000 scholarship endowment to benefit Newport Central Catholic High School.

The study, A FairCompare Analysis & Audit, is being conducted by an Ohio company called SchoolMatch. A FairCompare Analysis & Audit is an assessment of the quality of education established in a school system or school. The Analysis & Audit examines the degree to which a school or system meets the criteria of effectiveness. Effectiveness is defined as achieving educational results at a level equal to, or better than, those achieved by the top 20% of similar school systems, based on an examination of student and staff characteristics and community demographics. The results of this study will then be used as a basis for all future planning for Newport Independent Schools.

The City is committed to working with the Newport Board of Education and School Superintendent in providing whatever assistance deemed necessary during this most important process.

This latest partnership is one of many areas in which the City works to partner with the schools, to serve a school need that the City is better equipped to provide, or providing overall benefits to the schools due to City policies and programs. Some of the partnerships, services and other benefits provided by the City to Newport Independent Schools are as follows:

- ◆ The City partnered with schools in providing police officers, as School Resource Officers, to the Newport Middle School.
- ◆ The City partnered with schools in obtaining a \$1 million Learning Center Grant and the City has continued to be a partner to the 21st Century Community Learning Center that benefit Newport children and their families.

- ◆ The City was instrumental in obtaining funding for the continuation of the school's HealthySTEPS Program which allows for the operation of three school-based health centers that provide essential health services to Newport School children.
- ◆ Due to lack of adequate school facilities, the City gives Newport Independent Schools #1 priority, on City-owned facilities, for all its boys' high school varsity and junior varsity home baseball games and practices, as well as, girls' high school varsity and junior varsity home softball games and practices. In addition, the City provides practice fields for Newport Middle School and Newport Fire-fighter football teams. The City provides all the field preparation and maintenance of these facilities at no cost to the schools.
- ◆ The City's housing partnerships, programs and policies are providing quality affordable housing opportunities to families, thereby helping to stabilize neighborhoods. These initiatives are designed to provide for a less transitory student population, thereby creating consistency in results for our schools.
- ◆ Increased school revenues
 - The City partnered with the schools in 2000, whereby the City collects the schools' property taxes, which have generated over \$200,000 more a year for Newport Independent Schools.
 - The City has generated significant increases in school revenues with projects like the Levee/Aquarium, I.B. Goodman Jewelry Manufacturers and the Hofbrauhaus that generate 403%, 732% and 298%, respectively, more revenue for the schools than from all properties, on those sites, prior to the implementation of those new developments.
 - The City's overall economic and financial policies have generated \$2.4 million more in annual revenue for Newport Independent Schools.

The City will continue its strong commitment and support to Newport Independent Schools so as to improve the overall quality of life for our citizens.

Holiday Events and Activities

Presented by Newport Parks and Recreation

Letter to Santa

December 1 - 17, 2004

This December, Santa Claus will have a special mailbox in the lobby of the Newport City Building at Tenth and Monmouth Street for his Christmas mail. All children who write a letter to Santa will receive a response from the North Pole. To participate, drop your letters in Santa's mailbox or mail your letters to Santa's helpers at: Santa Claus, c/o Newport Parks & Recreation, 998 Monmouth Street, Newport, KY 41071. Be sure to print your name, address and phone number on your letter clearly.



Kid's Christmas Celebration

December 15, 2004

Come enjoy the Annual Kids' Christmas Celebration from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. where the first 500 children, ages 2 –10, will receive a free Christmas gift. Each child will have the opportunity to sit on Santa's lap and receive a candy cane. Music and entertainment will also be provided. This event is fun and free for the entire family.

Light A Home Contest

December 17-21, 2004

Enter the Light-a-Home Contest by decorating your home or business with holiday lights and decorations. Winners and runners-up will be selected from each of the nine Newport neighborhoods and the business district, and will be notified and awarded.



Senior Lights-N-Sights Tour

December 21, 2004

Senior adults can tour the City of Newport's best decorated yards and homes on a comfortable warm bus. Pickups at the Newport Senior Citizen Facilities between the hours of 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. The Recreation will provide hot chocolate, coffee, and holiday snacks to all senior participants. Registration required by Friday, December 12, by calling (859) 292-3686.

PRESENTS THE FOURTH ANNUAL

BRIGHTON THE WAY TO

Newport

LUMINARIA LIGHTING & HOLIDAY
WALK OF NEWPORT

*Visit participating businesses on Monmouth Street and make a purchase to be entered
in a cash drawing to win \$50 on November 6, 13, 20, and 27.*

*You will also be entered to win a
\$1,000 cash drawing the day of the event.
You MUST be present to win.*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4
5:30 - 8:00 PM

*See the city aglow in Luminaria. Participate in the Holiday Parade and Holiday Walk. Visit businesses.
Enjoy Caroling, the Lighting of the City Tree and the tree lighting at Newport on the Levee.
The \$1,000 cash drawing has been provided by Provident Bank.*



City Receives Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting

For the past nine years, the City of Newport has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.



The CAFR's have been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and to motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

Only 14 cities in Kentucky or 3.3% and only 1,661 or 4.6% of all cities, nationwide, have earned this prestigious award.

Eminent Domain Necessary for City Redevelopment

Cities are often criticized for their use of eminent domain for public projects, especially when large economic development projects are built in the process. This is especially true when not all of the property owners are willing to sell. Without Newport's ability to use eminent domain when necessary there would be no Aquarium or Newport on the Levee.

Newport, like other urban areas, does not have the large tracks of vacant developable land that the suburbs have. The Kentucky State Legislature has provided such cities with eminent domain as a tool to effectively put together development sites. Newport has only used this tool sparingly and as a last resort when its use was critical for the City to expand its

economic base. Expansion of this economic base is clearly for the public good. It contributes to the City's overall quality of life by funding essential services such as public safety and schools as well as upgrading the City's infrastructure.

Newport's experience with this type of acquisition for development projects has been overwhelmingly favorable. With very, very few exceptions, the property owners involved were happy to sell their property for prices that far exceeded what they could have received on the open market. These higher prices did not have a negative impact on the City as these prices are passed through the City for payment by the developer.

Newport High School Student Selected to Attend Washington D.C. Presidential Inauguration

Heather Herald, a Newport High School senior, has been chosen to attend the National Convention for high school seniors during Inaugural Week in Washington D.C. Approximately 4000 young people from the U.S. and 46 other countries have this opportunity. Heather is only one of six from Kentucky to be offered this trip as she is at the top of her class academically and plans to attend college. This experience will add greatly to her educational background. This is a financially overwhelming opportunity for her and her mother, Fran.

Therefore, we are asking for your help! Any amount that you could donate would be appreciated. Please send all donations to: Heather Herald Fund: Care of Greg Engleman, Chief Financial Officer, City of Newport Finance Department, 998 Monmouth Street, Newport, KY 41071. For additional questions, please contact Commissioner Jan Knepshield @ 859-261-2567 or Greg Engelman @ 859-292-3660. We thank you for your generosity.

Newport Citizen Police Academy

- Dates: January 6th through March 17th, 2005
- Time: 6:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M.
- Where: The first session will be held at the City of Newport Multi-Purpose Room. Specific directions for other sessions will be given during class.
- Dress: Casual dress is appropriate and comfortable shoes are encouraged.
- Food: Pizza, pop, and water are provided.

Program Synopsis:

The Newport Citizen Police Academy is a program conducted by the Crime Prevention Unit for citizens and business owners of Newport, Kentucky. The focus is on operational procedures and policies of the Newport Police Department. The purpose of the program is to heighten awareness of law enforcement's role in the community and the goal is to increase understanding and communication through hands on and classroom instruction.

Citizen Police Academy participants are selected through an application process. Enrollment is limited to achieve a more personal experience for the participants. Lessons covered include use of force, crime prevention, crime scene investigation, DUI, firearms, court system, history of police department, etc.

The curriculum will consist of ten sessions, conducted once a week on Thursday evenings. A ride-along with an officer on shift will be scheduled separately (but is not mandatory). Upon successful completion, a culmination ceremony will be held on Thursday, March 17th, 2005. Friends and family are welcome to attend.

APPLICATIONS NEED TO BE SUBMITTED BY: DECEMBER 15, 2004 TO THE NEWPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT.

For additional information, please call Capt. Howard Niemeier or P.O. Dimitri Baloglou, Academy Coordinators, at (859) 292-3611 or 292-3664 or visit our website at www.cityofnewportky.org. A message may be left at that number after office hours. You can also contact them via email at hniemeier@newportkypd.org. or dbaloglou@newportkypd.org.

Brighton the Way

The City of Newport will be twinkling with thousands of luminary candles Saturday, December 4 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The Newport Business Association, Brighton Center, Newport on the Levee and the City of Newport is partnering once again with residents for the Fourth Annual *Brighton the Way to Newport* Luminary Lighting and Holiday Stroll. Residents are invited to enjoy the beauty and charm of Newport with this fabulous display of luminaries.

Please join the community at the City Building for the lighting of the Christmas tree and a stroll along Monmouth Street concluding at Newport on the Levee where there will be a \$1,000 cash drawing. Each block along Monmouth Street will have a variety of activities and entertainment, featuring the talent in Newport. This year event planners have added a cash drawing leading up to the event, with a \$1,000 cash drawing the night of *Brighton the Way to Newport*, in which the winner must be present. Throughout the month of November participating businesses along Monmouth Street will have boxes in their establishments, beginning November 1st.

To enter to win individuals must purchase an item. There will be \$50 cash drawings November 6, 13, 20, and 27. The \$1,000 cash drawing will be on December 4th at Newport on the Levee for all of those who entered by purchasing throughout November at the participating businesses.

Monmouth Street will be closed to parking that evening so anyone driving through to see the lights will have an unobstructed view. The evening will begin with the City of Newport's official tree lighting at 5:30 p.m. Santa Claus on his sleigh will lead the Holiday Stroll and caroling down Monmouth Street, stopping to hear and see other performers along his way. Santa will then stop at Newport on the Levee for the entertainment complex's lighting ceremony at 7 p.m. The \$1,000 cash drawing will take place at the Levee after the lighting of the Christmas tree. Everyone is encouraged to come out and get in the holiday spirit as a family and community.

For more information or to place an order for kits or tribute luminary please call Brighton Center at 491-8303.

Newport is a Leader in Regulating Sexually Oriented Businesses

Over the past several years there has been much attention in the news media concerning the regulation of Adult Entertainment or Sexually Oriented Businesses (SOB's). An underlying fact concerning the regulating and related zoning of (SOB's) is that the City must deal with what the United States Supreme Court, as well as, many State Supreme Courts have determined - that there must be some area within a community where (SOB's) may be located. The City of Newport began to regulate in adult entertainment in 1982 when there were 17 adult establishments in existence, mainly in the City's Central Business District (CBD) zone. The City's approach was different from what other cities had done. Newport's approach was a systematic development of regulations and ordinances through its municipal code and zoning regulations. This approach also involved the "stretching of the envelope" by currently anticipating what the legal trends would be in this type of regulation. Our success in having these regulations tested in state and federal court is a testament to the validity of City's approach in addressing this issue. The City has seen the closure of 15 of the 17 adult entertainment businesses that existed.

A review of City's zoning in January 2003, in relation to the development of the City and the constantly changing law regarding (SOB's) regulation, dictated that the City and its citizens would be better served by only permitting those businesses in another zone. Through public meetings over a six week period the City chose a Heavy Industrial Zone (I-2) on the west side. The (I-2) zone has no residential structures and there are

only three property owners. The (I-2) zone is isolated with the Licking River on the west and a light industrial zone (I-1) on the north, south and east. The zoning of (SOB's) will again be reviewed as a part of the City's comprehensive planning process early next year.

There has been some recent media attention concerning a private "swingers" club on Monmouth Street. In keeping with our past successful regulation, the City has been closely monitoring this club and the City is doing everything possible to legally regulate this club. The unfortunate use of this issue by some for political gain has produced negative publicity and providing for a bad image for the City. It has also helped to promote the club and its activities.

There is no city or county in the Commonwealth of Kentucky that has a better track record regarding the regulation and control of adult entertainment than the City of Newport. At the request of cities and counties from across the United States over the last 22 years, the City of Newport has mailed well over a thousand packets of information containing our City ordinances and regulations that we have used to lawfully control, regulate and eliminate adult entertainment from our community.

The City will continue to monitor changes and developments in the law and the changes and developments of life in the City in order to protect and improve your quality of life.

City Develops Strong Alliances in Providing Housing Opportunities for Everyone

The City of Newport has developed strong alliances with the Newport Housing Authority, Brighton Center and the Northern Kentucky Home Builders Association in facilitating the City's most aggressive housing revitalization program since the post World War era. These housing programs will revitalize and stabilize our neighborhoods and provide for quality house opportunities for all income levels.

In addition to the continued housing rehabilitation that continues in the East Row Historic District, as well as other neighborhoods, there are a number of current housing developments that are taking shape.

The \$28.4 million Hope VI Program had the grand opening of its Liberty Row Development with fourteen single-family houses.

The Hope VI Program will produce approximately another 254 quality affordable housing units throughout the City.

Newport Housing Development Corporation (NHDC) will be developing twenty-six housing units in the 700 block of Ann Street and another seventeen single family houses on lower Eighteenth and Nineteenth Streets.

The Wiedemann Hill Subdivision has produced fourteen upscale homes with an additional thirty-eight proposed.

The Estates at Wiedemann Mansion will have five upscale homes plus the Carriage House ready for the May 2005 Citifest with an additional eleven homes proposed.



Mark Your Calendar!

Information pertaining to Board of Commissioners and other City Board meeting schedules and events may also be viewed on the City's Cable Channel 16 and City's web site www.cityofnewportky.org.

November 1-26 Leaf Pick-Up

Residents may rake their leaves into the curb area for pick up. If residents have any questions, please call Public Works at (859) 292-3670.

November 2 Election Day

Get out and vote on November 2nd. For information regarding where to vote call (859) 292-3885.

November 11 Veteran's Day Ceremony

There will be a ceremony honoring Veteran's at 11:00 a.m. at the City Municipal Complex located at 998 Monmouth Street.

November 11 City Offices Closed

City Offices will be closed in observance of Veteran's Day.

November 13 Prepare Affair

People Working Cooperatively is sponsoring Prepare Affair Saturday, November 13. During this event, City staff volunteer to assist the elderly, disabled and low income homeowners with leave raking and gutter cleaning. For more information or to volunteer call (513) 351-7921.

November 13-21 Fall Litterfest 2004

Dumpsters will be available at the City garage for residents to dispose of trash and debris between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Residents can also call the City to pick up larger items by calling (859) 292-3670.

November 23 Basketball Turkey Shoot

Children can shoot "fowl" shots to win a frozen turkey or pumpkin pie for Thanksgiving from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Children compete for the highest score by age divisions: 4 and under, 5 and 6, 7 and 8, 9 and 10, 11 and 12, and 13 through 17 years. Registration required by calling (859) 292-3686. Location TBD.

November 25-26 City Offices Closed

City Offices will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving.

December 7, 2004 Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony

Lawler Hanlon V.F.W. Post #5662 will be honoring our survivors and families of Pearl Harbor at James Taylor Park at 12:00 p.m. Military personnel and veteran organizations will be present for the Ceremony. Questions please contact the V. F.W. at (859) 431-8783.

December 24 City Offices Closed

City Offices will be closed in observance of Christmas.

December 31 City Offices Closed

City Offices will be closed in observance of New Year's.

**Wishing You A
Happy and Safe
Holiday Season!**



*A place to live, work, shop
and play.
It's all that and more!*

City of Newport
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